

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claims 8, 16-17, 19, and 22 have been canceled, claims 20-21 have been amended to depend on claim 23 instead of claim 19, claim 23 has been amended to recite that the cylinder is connected to a pick-up felt and followed by a wet press, claim 24 has been amended to recite that the traditional pick-up felt is replaced by a woven cloth, and claims 27-28 have been amended to depend on claims 18 and 23, respectively, instead of claims 8 and 19, respectively.

Support for the added recitation in claim 24 is found in the original application, for example on page 7, lines 19-20 and 27-28.

Claims 18, 20-21, and 23-29 are pending in the present application.

In the Office Action, claims 8, 16, 19-22 and 24-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over US 361,849 (Taylor) in view of US 2,980,540 (Britt), and claims 8, 16, 19-22 and 24-29 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over EP 458 973 (Hiyoshi) in view of Britt.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested. Claims 8, 16-17, 19, and 22 have been canceled. Claims 20-21 have been amended to depend on claim 23 instead of claim 19. Claim 24 has been amended to recite that the traditional pick-up felt is replaced by a woven cloth. Claims 27-28 have been amended to depend on claims 18 and 23, respectively, instead of claims 8 and 19, respectively. Thus, it is submitted that all claims include a feature that a woven cloth is in place of the pick-up felt or that the traditional pick-up felt is replaced by a woven cloth. Therefore, the present claims are not obvious over the cited references taken alone or in any combination.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejections should be withdrawn.

Next, claims 19-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. It is alleged that structural relationships are missing in claims 19, 23 and 24.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Claim 19 has been canceled, claim 23, which is directed to a vat machine, has been amended to recite that the cylinder is connected to a pick-up felt and followed by a wet press, and claim 24, which is broadly directed to a paper machine, has been amended to recite that the traditional pick-up felt has been replaced by a woven cloth. A traditional paper machine comprising a pick-up felt is conventionally known. Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn.

Next, in the Office Action, claim 17 is objected to as a duplicate of claim 18.

Claim 17 has now been canceled. Therefore, the objection is moot.

In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

In the event there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Serial Number: 09/529,816

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In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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